Aphorism

The following five examples were dictated by Miss Martha John.

CYCLE OF LIFE

hofánti-toho-k có:ba-toho-k na:sincaksobáyli-toho-k mán
BE:BORN-realis-ss GROW-realis-ss GO:TO:SCHOOL-realis-ss ALSO

anáɬɬi-toho-k ocó:si-toho-k himá:ya-p
MARRY-realis-ss HAVE:CHLDREN-realis-ss NOW-new:top

síhno-toho-k á:po-toho-k
GROW:OLD-realis-ss BECOME:GRANDMOTHER-realis-ss

hó:pa-toho-k íllí-toho-k ombití:ka-toho-k
FALL:ILL-realis-ss DIE(sg)-realis-ss BE:BURIED(sg)-realis-ss

tósb-o-Y
ROT-be-phr:term

/ hofánttohok, có:batohok na:sincaksobáytohok, man anáɬtohok ocó:sitohok, himá:yap síhnotohok, á:potohok, hó:patohok, íllitohok, ombití:katohok, tósbǫ /

'She is born, grows up and goes to school, again she gets married and has children, now she grows old and becomes a grandmother, she falls ill and dies, she is buried, and indeed is decayed.'[10]

A SUDDEN STORM

nihtá-k ká:no-toho-:li-y-on o:lací ló:ca-k
DAY-subj BE:GOOD-realis-deduc-conseq-sw:foc CLOUD BLACK-subj

í,h,l-ok óyba-t hasáyli-t fáyli-t
ARRIVE,h:grade,-ss:foc RAIN-conn BE:DOWNPOUR-conn QUIT(sg)-conn

hanabitilí-k s-haccá:li-n nihtá-k ká:no-t
RAINBOW-subj instr-STAND(sg)-sw DAY-subj BE:GOOD-Past

/ nihták ká:notoho:liyon, o:lací ló:cak íhlok, óybat, hasáylit, fáylit, hanabitilík shaccá:lin, nihták ká:not /

'The day was fine, but contrary to expectation, black clouds gathered, and it rained and there was a downpour, it ceased, a rainbow came out, and the day was fine again.'

FIRE

tal-ón batápli-t cikápli-t ittó tóspi-hayó
STONE-obj:foc STRIKE-conn SPARK-conn WOOD ROTTEN-iness

hiɬí:li-t atiní:ka-t toɬkáybi-t
CATCH:FIRE-conn BURN(sg)-conn BECOME:COALS-conn

hísto-t himá:ya-p apísli-toho-Ɣ
BECOME:ASH-conn NOW-new:top THROW:AWAY(pl)-realis-phr:term

/ talón batáplit cikáplit ittó tospihayó hiɬí:lit atiní:kat toɬkáybit hístot, himá:yap apistohǫ /

'One strikes a stone and it sparks and it catches fire among the rotten wood; it burns, it becomes glowing coals, it turns to ashes, and now they are thrown away.'

FRIENDS

itti-hí:c-ok ittim-na:ɬí:ka-t ittim-afá:ka-t
recip-SEE-ss:foc recip:dat-SPEAK-conn recip:dat-LAUGH-conn

ittim-ókla-t akkámm-o:s
recip:dat-MAKE:FRIENDS-conn BE:SO-dim

/ tihí:cok, tinna:ɬí:kat, timafá:kat, timóklat kámmo:s /[11]

'On seeing each other, they speak to each other, they laugh with each other, they make friends with each other, and that is all.'

THE BABY

cokí:bo:si-toho-k athómma-p hasí ostá:ka-:fó:k híssi
BE:SMALL-realis-ss INDIAN-new:top MONTH BE:FOUR-when HAIR

im-sahlí:ci-toho-k tabátli-toho-k cayáhli-toho-k
3dat-SHAVE-realis-ss CRAWL-realis-ss WALK-realis-ss

/ cokí:bostohok, athómmap hasí ostá:ka:fó:k híssi ¡sahlí:citohok, tabátlitohok, cayáhlitohok /

'It is small, and now the Indians in the fourth month [of its life] shave off its hair, it crawls, and then it walks.'

Kimball, Geoffrey D. 1991. Koasati Grammar.
Lincoln; University of Nebraska Press.